

Exercises at Harbor City School Today

Harbor City Christian School will hold their annual graduation for twelfth grade students tonight. Those graduating are Daniel J. Fillman, Arthur W. Gunningham, Jan R. VanDyke, and John S. Palmowski.

In exercises held Tuesday evening the eighth grade class graduated. Graduating were Sandra R. Bates, Elizabeth Canales, Mary R. Hitchcock, Gary R. Hoppenrath, Larry W. Klepper, Danny N. Olds, Sharon L. Pearson, and Sandra R. Timms.

Rev. Marion Plies, principal of school, will officiate at the ceremonies. She has just returned from a trip to the Holy Land. She also visited Egypt, Jordan, Greece, and Italy on the tour.

Mosaic Panel Presented to City Plunge

A mosaic panel entitled "Torrance As Seen Through the Eyes of Its Children" will be dedicated at the city plunge Sunday at 3 p.m. The panel was created by the children in classes at the Arts and Crafts Center of the Torrance Recreation Dept.

Under the guidance of the Center director, Mrs. Erika Muhl, the children first drew

Native of Lomita Now Heads Bank

A quarter of a century in banking is being observed this month by James L. Gannon, manager of Security First National Bank's Bixby Knolls branch.

Born in Lomita, Gannon was graduated from Narbonne High School and joined Security's staff as a bookkeeper in 1936.

Rising through the banking ranks, he held assistant managerial posts at various branches before being named assistant vice president in 1958. In that same year he was appointed manager of the Bixby Knolls branch.

A participant in various community and social activities, Gannon is a member of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, Uptown Kiwanis Club, Bixby Knolls Center Merchants Association, and the Harbor Chapter, American Institute of Banking. He also serves as a director, North Long Beach YMCA.

He and his wife, the former Lomita, and their son, James, 18, live in Rossmore.

Assembly Winds Up Session With Packed Agenda, Senate Busy

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

As you read this, our 1961 regular session will be practically a matter of history. Only one or two days will remain, but they will be action-packed, and important decisions on matters of great significance will undoubtedly be made.

The budget bill for 1961-62 is the latest major measure, as this is being written, to be acted upon. The Assembly has approved its version, totalling slightly over \$2,599,000,000. Approval was not obtained without a floor fight, in which the minority vigorously attempted to make further cuts of about \$1½ million. Proponents argued that the budget calls for an increase of only \$72 million over that of the current year, a rise of some 2.7 per cent. This is the smallest percentage increase in many years, they claim.

THIS HUGE budget total, largest for any state in the Union, is still an economical, tight expenditure program, its Assembly supporters insist. While the ultimate outcome will depend on the legislative fate of several tax reduction measures, and that of many special appropriation bills, it was estimated that the Assembly version of the budget would leave a surplus of around \$2.6 million at the end of the next fiscal year.

The Senate was also making progress on its version of the budget. As reported out by the finance committee for floor consideration, the bill called for about \$900,000 more than the Assembly total. If it is passed approximately as recommended, this means that the bill will be sent to a conference committee between the two houses, which will iron out differences between them.

FINAL enactment of the budget bill will provide for the continuation during the coming year, not only of the many direct services performed by the State, but also that of many programs administered by local government agencies, such as education and welfare. More than half the budget total, roughly \$1.4 billion, will be granted to local agencies to carry out their duties in such fields. Less than one-third, \$787 million, will go for direct operations costs of the State. The balance, made up of \$322 million in appropriations and \$105 million of bond funds, will go for building and other capital outlay by the State.

As I pointed out above, the final budget situation for next year will be determined to a very great extent by the action taken on tax reduction proposals and special appropriations. Two major types of tax reduction bills have made considerable legislative progress.

A SERIES of Senate bills which would bring the State income tax law into conformity with the federal, so far as exemptions and the like are concerned, are now before an Assembly committee. It is estimated they would reduce the State income tax total by some \$5 million annually.

An administration-approved measure to eliminate the sales tax on prescription drugs has received a favorable recommendation from the Senate committee, and is now given a good chance for final passage. It is estimated that it will save buyers of such drugs about \$6.7 million per year.

The many special appropriation bills, the total cost of which has been "guesstimated" at more than \$220 million, can legally be brought up for action after the budget bill is passed. However, with the chairmen of the finance committees in both houses saying that no such bills will be seriously considered unless money to pay their cost is made evident, chances for most of them are now regarded as pretty slim.

Manuscripters

To Hear Author

Ardyth Hitchcock, writer, teacher and literary consultant will speak on "The Power of the Creative Mind" at Friday's meeting of Southwest Manuscripters to be held at 8 p.m., Clark Stadium, 861 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach.

Miss Hitchcock, acclaimed particularly in the confession field for her success as a writer, and as a teacher of successful writers, will welcome questions from the audience following her talk.

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